safety of ethnic Indians in South Africa after majority rule had been established.

Sharing of river water among A.P., Karnataka and Maharashtra

415. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI. Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra met thrice during the last year to discuss the sharing of river waters; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHIR MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b) The Chief Ministers of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Maharashtra met twice during the last year to discuss the issues relating to the Telugu Ganga Project and sharing of surplus Krishna waters. After discussing various alternative proposals, it was agreed by them to examine these proposals in respective States and to meet again.

Decision to stop refueling of U.S. aircrafts

416. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI:
DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:
SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA:
SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA:
SHRIMATI MIRA DAS:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to stop refuelling of US Air-force planes on Indian airports;

(b) who permitted the refuelling of such warships while war is on between belligerent countries at present in the Gulf countries and when;

(c) the number of times the aircrafts refuelled and at which Air Ports, alongwith the number of such aircrafts; and

(d) whether Iraq has protested against refuelling permitted by India; if so, what is the response of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI KAMAL MORARKA): (a) Transit and refuelling of US Air Force transport aircraft in India has stopped with effect from 20th February, 1991, following the withdrawal of the request for such a facility to the US Government.

(b) The Government permitted the transit and refuelling of US Air Force transport aircraft for the sole purpose of carrying non-lethal cargo and for evacuation of personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency grounds. These facilities were not provided for combat aircraft.

(c) Since the Gulf crisis 136 US air force transport aircraft were given transit and refuelling facilities at Bombay, Madras, Agra and Nagpur.

(d) No, Sir. Government have, however, seen the statement issued by the Government of Iraq on this issue. Government have explained to the Government of Iraq that the transit and refuelling facilities provided to US Air Force transport aircraft was solely for the purpose of transporting non-lethal cargo and for evacuating personnel on humanitarian, medical and emergency considerations.

"Deforestation and afforestation by paper manufacturers"

417. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 2402 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th August, 1990 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that non-afforestation by paper manufacturers to the extent they deforest is an ecological irresponsibility; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken to prevent such want on destruction of forests for private gain?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND